

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully asserts that all claim rejections presented in the Office Action mailed March 2, 2001 were addressed in the interview of February 26, 2001 and in the subsequent filing of a Supplemental Amendment on March 1, 2001.

The Office Action was prepared by the examiner and signed by the applicable supervisor on February 24, 2001. The Office Action, however, was not mailed until March 2, 2001. On February 26, 2001, Applicant conducted an in-person interview with the examiner. In the interview, Applicant presented amendments that the examiner agreed would overcome the art of record. On March 1, 2001, Applicant filed a Supplemental Amendment in accordance with the agreement reached in the February 26, 2001 interview.

Applicant respectfully asserts that the Supplemental Amendment filed March 1, 2001 addresses and overcomes all the claim rejections presented in the Office Action mailed March 2, 2001. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests immediate allowance of all outstanding claims.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-28 are in condition for immediate allowance. In the event the examiner finds any remaining impediment to the prompt allowance of any of these claims that could be clarified in a telephone conference, the examiner is respectfully urged to initiate the same with the undersigned.

DATED this 21 day of March, 2001.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: March 21, 2001

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